

November 17, 1982

Division File

Perry Mann - Southern Region *(JM)*

LRC 11904007 - Madison County - Granite City/Taracorp
Sample collection and observations at subject site

On November 16, 1982, Diane Spencer and myself visited the subject site in order to split samples collected by Taracorp, from the four (4) newly installed wells. We were accompanied by Dennis J. Wentz and G. Bentz, along, with an unidentified employee of Taracorp.

Samples were collected by utilizing a diaphragm-type hand pump, which was primed using "tap" water. The samples were collected after a sufficient volume was pumped to remove the primer water, i.e., when turbid well water was observed being pumped, instead of the clean "tap" water. Agency samples were pumped into bottles which were later the same day transferred to preserved bottles at the Collinsville office. The field apparatus used for filtering was not compatible with the pumping method utilized by Taracorp. Taracorp's samples, according to Mr. Wentz, were to be filtered in their laboratory, on-site.

A copy of the driller's log for the new wells was forwarded to me by Mr. Bentz. A review of this information (copies of info enclosed) indicates it to be extremely deficient of pertinent geologic data. Subsurface soil samples were collected at only one boring, S-1, in five foot intervals. The data given allows only the most general evaluations of the hydrogeologic conditions at the subject site to be made.

It was observed during the sample collection that the apparent down-gradient (hydrogeologically) wells are quite a distance from Taracorp, i.e. the waste pile. As an example, well L-3 is approximately 200 yards from the waste pile's edge. The placement of these wells causes considerable uncertainty to be placed upon the results from the samples to be indicative of any contamination which may have been caused specifically by the waste pile. Likewise, if the results show no contamination, this would not necessarily indicate no contamination has occurred; contamination may be observable at locations in closer proximity to the source. The distance of the wells to the suspected source is of critical importance, in this case, because of interest specifically in the plume lead. Lead is relatively insoluble (except under specific chemical conditions) which is a cause for its low mobility character in ground water. A monitoring scheme directed emphatically toward lowly mobile parameters necessitates the placement of monitoring wells in close proximity of the source.



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Therefore, after receiving the analytic results from these samples, a careful investigation of their validity should be conducted prior to any future collections of samples or installation of additional monitoring wells.

PCB:jlr

cc: Southern Region
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